

[English]

Opening of Sub-Office of Controller of Imports and Exports at Mysore

3676. SHRIMATICHANDRAPRABHARS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a sub-office of the Controller of Imports and Exports at Mysore; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration with the Government to open a sub office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E) at Mysore.

Losses in Nationalised Banks in Kerala

3677. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the nationalised banks in Kerala which have suffered loss as on October 31, 1991; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The present data reporting system does not yield region-wise information in regard to the profits and losses of nationalised banks.

Setting up of Cardamom Board

3678. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA .
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to set up Cardamom Board; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Trade Deficit

3679. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the trade deficit expected during 1991-92;

(b) whether it includes imports for defence; and

(c) the manner in which this deficit is proposed to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to the provisional figures, India's trade deficit amounted to Rs. 2356 crores during April-September, 1991 as compared to Rs. 4234 crores during April-September 1990. It is difficult to precisely estimate the trade deficit for the financial year 1991-92 at this stage.

(b) The trade figures include only the merchandise trade that pass through the customs, without any distinction being made whether they are for defence purposes or otherwise.

(c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import

licensing and optimal import compression with a view to contain the trade deficit. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scripts. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open Foreign Currency Accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts, and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry, etc.

Relief to Workers Under Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme in Gujarat

3680. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unemployed textile workers in Gujarat have not been paid any relief under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of workers who have been provided with relief so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) 12188 workers have been provided with relief under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme.

[Translation]

Shifting of Villages Near Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur

3681. SHRIMATI KRISHNAENDRA KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the villages near the ammunition depot, Bharatpur; and

(b) if so, the places where these villagers are proposed to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Widening of National Highway No.3 from Nasik to Bombay

3682. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the National Highway No.3 from Nasik to Bombay into four lanes;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) when the work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). No decision about the four laning of Bombay-Nasik Section of National Highway No. 3 could be taken till finalisation of the VIII Plan, and would depend *inter alia* on availability of resources and various inter-se priorities.